

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The priority papers were filed with the original application papers and their receipt was acknowledged in the above-mentioned Examiner's Action. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

Claim 8, which originally depended directly from independent claim 7, has been found to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly this amendment places the subject matter of claim 8 into claim 7 making claim 7 and claims 9-11 dependent from it allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention with somewhat greater particularity over the art. It now defines In a card holder used combination with a grounded support 21 and a smart card C. The card holder comprises:

a dielectric base 11 fixed to the support 21 and formed with a throughgoing cutout 22 exposing the grounded support 21;

a conductive cover 13 forming a slot dimensioned to hold the card C;

a hinge 29 on the dielectric base 11 pivotally carrying the conductive cover 13 for movement between an open position with the cover 13 and the card C in the slot partially raised from the base 11 and a closed position with the cover 13 and the card C in the slot closely juxtaposed with the base 11 and covering the cutout 22; and

a ground contact 18 carried on and electrically connected to the cover 13 and positioned to engage through the cutout 22 directly with the grounded support 21 in the closed position of the cover 13.

Thus the main claim now recites how the cover 13 is hinged on the base 11, and how the ground contact 18 engages through the cutout 22 of the base with the grounded support 21.

Clearly there is nothing like this structure in US patent 5,718,609 of Braun. This is the admitted prior art and lacks the cutout 22 and the ground contact 18 engageable through it with a grounded support 21.

In US patent 6,074,223 of Huang there is a cover 31 formed with a tab 33 that projects through a cutout with an internal terminal 23b of a card held in the cover 31. There is nothing resembling the hinge 29 now defined in claim 1. In addition there is nothing like the pivoting action of the cover and card together

to move a ground contact on the cover into engagement through a cutout in the base with a ground below the base. Instead in Huang the cover 31, if it moves at all, moves independently of the card and there is nothing resembling the base and ground. Thus even in combination with Braun, Huang cannot form a valid §103 rejection of amended claim 1.

For these reasons all the claims in the case are felt to be in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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